

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8 now stand in the application, claim 6 having been canceled as its content has been incorporated into claim 1, and new claim 8 having been added.

Claim 7 has now been amended to clarify the distinction between channels and accesses, stating that each access includes a plurality of channels. A similar amendment has been made to claim 1, which has also been amended to recite that the additional signaling channel is in the signaling path of a second access,. The difference between paths and accesses is also explained at lines 19-23 of page 1 of the specification.

Kobayashi does not teach plural signaling channels on different media but only a single channel that can be re-located to a different medium.

Further, the art does not teach having one common signaling channel that shares information relating to channels on two different accesses. The examiner is considering each channel of Kim to be a different access, with the result that the common signaling channel of Kim handles signals relating to plural channels and therefore handles signals relating to plural accesses. As discussed earlier, this is not a reasonable interpretation of the term “access,” but I any event the amendments made to the claims now preclude a reading of the claim language such that each channel is a different access.

The claims as now amended require first and second accesses each having plural information channels (thirty, according to claims 5 and 8), with signaling channels on different physical media and at least one of the signaling channels shared between channels of the two different accesses.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
USSN 09/736,298

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

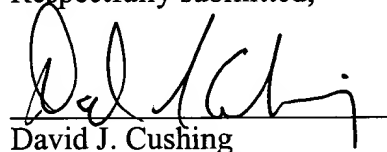
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. J. Cushing', written over a horizontal line.

David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703

Date: October 31, 2005